

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MV

SUBJECT: BRITISH RESPONSE TO GOM ABROGATION OF GAN
AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 187309 (B) STATE 201465 (NOTAL)

1. NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS CALLED IN BRITISH
EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 24 TO REVIEW US DECISION ON QUESTION OF
BRITISH REPLY TO PRESIDENT NASIR CONCERNING STATUS OF 1965
ANGLO-MALDIVIAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT. BRITISH HAD EARLIER
SOUGHT OUR VIEWS ON THEIR INTENTION TO ACQUIESCE IN MAL-
DIVIAN TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT, STATING THAT THIS WAS ONLY
OPTION OPEN TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOM (REF A).

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INITIAL BRITISH PRESENTATION ALSO TOUCHED ON EFFORT BY GOM

TO FIND SUCCESSOR TO RAF ON GAN, INCLUDING REPORTS OF ARAB, SOVIET AND IRANIAN INTEREST IN GAN.

2. DUBS NOTED THAT ISSUE HAD PROMPTED EXTENSIVE REVIEW WITHIN STATE AND DOD LEADING, ULTIMATELY, TO CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS LITTLE POINT IN HMG NOT ACQUIESCING IN TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT, GIVEN ITS REPUDIATION BY THE MALDIVIANS. U.S., HOWEVER, WELCOMED BRITISH INTENTION TO OFFER AID TO THE MALDIVES OVER THREE TO FIVE YEAR PERIOD IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE INTEREST AND INFLUENCE FOR

FOR THE UK IN THE MALDIVES.

3. DUBS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN EVENT OF POWER INIMICAL TO WESTERN INTERESTS SEEKS ACCESS TO GAN WE WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PRECLUDE SUCH USE, INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO ASCERTAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING SOME ASSISTANCE TO THE MALDIVES. THE U.S. ALSO URGED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY HMG TO NEGOTIATING THE RETENTION OF RESIDUAL LANDING RIGHTS IN THE MALDIVES. THE U.S., IN ANY EVENT, DUBS CONCLUDED, WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH REGARD TO GAN.

4. UK EMBOFF STATED THAT WITH OUR REPLY, FCO COULD NOW INSTRUCT HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SRI LANKA TO TRAVEL TO MALE WITH BRITISH RESPONSE TO NASIR. OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT FURTHER ON GAN, HE ADDED, WOULD ARISE DURING PERIODIC JOINT INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, WITH NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. KISSINGER

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